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Operational activities for development: operational activities for development of the United Nations system

Letter dated 11 May 2005 from the Permanent Representatives of Indonesia and South Africa to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

The Asian-African Summit and Golden Jubilee of the 1955 Asian-African Conference, held in Jakarta and Bandung from 22 to 24 April 2005, represented a historic event marking the establishment of a new strategic partnership between Asia and Africa.

The Asian-African Summit resulted in the Declaration on the New Asian-African Strategic Partnership, the Joint Ministerial Statement on the New Asian-African Strategic Partnership Plan of Action and the Joint Asian-African Leaders' Statement on Tsunamis, Earthquakes and Other Natural Disasters (see annex).

The Summit also represents a significant milestone in further strengthening South-South cooperation and serves as one of the building blocks in strengthening the United Nations multilateral system.

In view of the importance of South-South cooperation and on behalf of our Governments in our capacity as co-chairs of the Asian-African Summit, we have the honour to submit herewith the outcomes of the Summit and request that the present letter and its annex be issued as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 90 (a).

(*Signed*) Rezlan Ishar **Jenie**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Indonesia to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Dumisani Shadrack **Kumalo**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 11 May 2005 from the Permanent Representatives of Indonesia and South Africa to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

DECLARATION ON THE NEW ASIAN-AFRICAN STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

We, the Leaders of Asian and African countries, have gathered in Jakarta, Indonesia on 22-23 April 2005 for the Asian-African Summit to reinvigorate the Spirit of Bandung as enshrined in the Final Communiqué of the 1955 Asian-African Conference and to chart the future cooperation between our two continents towards a New Asian-African Strategic Partnership (NAASP).

We reiterate our conviction that the Spirit of Bandung, the core principles of which are solidarity, friendship and cooperation, continues to be a solid, relevant and effective foundation for fostering better relations among Asian and African countries and resolving global issues of common concern. The 1955 Bandung Conference remains as a beacon in guiding the future progress of Asia and Africa.

We note with satisfaction that since the 1955 Conference, Asian and African countries have attained significant political advances. We have successfully combated the scourge of colonialism and consistently fought racism. In particular, the abolishment of apartheid represents a milestone in Asian-African cooperation and we reaffirm our continued determination to eradicate racism and all forms of discrimination. As a result of our efforts over the last fifty years, we are all independent, sovereign and equal nations striving for the promotion of human rights, democracy, and the rule of law. However, having made these political gains, we are concerned that we have not yet attained commensurate progress in the social and economic spheres. We recognize the need to continuously strengthen the process of nation and state-building, as well as social integration.

We remain committed to the principle of self-determination as set forth in the Final Communiqué of the 1955 Bandung Conference and in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations. In particular, we express our abhorrence that, fifty years since the 1955 Bandung Conference, the Palestinian people remain deprived of their right to independence.

We remain steadfast in our support for the Palestinian people and the creation of a viable and sovereign Palestinian state, in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions.

We emphasize the importance of multilateral approaches to international relations and the need for countries to strictly abide by the principles of international law, in particular the Charter of the United Nations. As Asia and Africa represent the majority in the community of nations, we reaffirm the need to support and strengthen multilateralism in order to address global issues, including reforming multilateral institutions.

We recognize that the current global situation and the prevailing conditions in Asia and Africa necessitate the need to actively pursue a common view and collective action to ensure the equitable sharing of the benefits of globalization. We are determined to meet the internationally agreed targets and goals aimed at poverty eradication, development and growth, and underline the necessity for all parties to honour their commitments in this regard. We emphasize the importance of enhancing cooperation with all regions.

We underline the importance of dialogue among civilizations to promote a culture of peace, tolerance and respect for religious, cultural, language and racial diversities as well as gender equality.

We acknowledge the positive development of intra-regional/sub-regional integration in both continents. Nevertheless, continent-wide inter-regional cooperation among the two continents needs to be developed. We are convinced that cooperation between sub-regional organizations, through sharing experiences and best practices, can propel growth and sustainable development.

We underline the importance of bringing the regions closer together by utilizing the advantages derived from the commonalities and diversity of, as well as the new and encouraging developments in, both regions. We emphasize both the collective responsibilities and the important role of all stakeholders in exploring innovative and concrete ways and means to strengthen cooperation between Asia and Africa.

In this regard, we acknowledge the importance of complementing and building upon existing initiatives that link the two continents, *inter alia* Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD), China-Africa Cooperation Forum (CACF), India-Africa Cooperation, Indonesia-Brunei Darussalam sponsored Non-Aligned Movement Centre for South-South Technical Cooperation, Vietnam-Africa Forum, and the Smart Partnership Initiative and the Langkawi International Dialogue. We stress the importance of streamlining and aligning existing initiatives for coherence and maximum benefit and to avoid duplication.

We acknowledge the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) as the African Union's programme for poverty eradication, socio-economic development and growth and accept it as the framework for engagement with Africa. We express our support for the implementation of NEPAD.

We underscore the urgency of promoting economic development in the Asian and African regions, as stipulated in the 1955 Bandung Conference. We stress that poverty and under-development, gender mainstreaming, communicable diseases, environmental degradation, natural disasters, drought and desertification, digital divide, inequitable market access, and foreign debt, remain as issues of common concern which call for our closer cooperation and collective action.

We envision an Asian-African region at peace with itself and with the world at large working together as a concert of nations in harmony, non-exclusive, bonded in dynamic partnership and conscious of our historical ties and cultural heritage. We visualize an affluent Asian-African region characterized by equitable growth, sustainable development as well as a common determination to enhance the quality of life and well-being of our people. We further envisage a caring Asian-African society where the people live in stability, prosperity, dignity and free from the fear of violence, oppression and injustice.

To this end, we hereby declare, as an expression of our new political will, the establishment of a New Asian-African Strategic Partnership (NAASP) as a framework to build a bridge between Asia and Africa covering three broad areas of partnership, namely political solidarity, economic cooperation, and

socio-cultural relations. The strategic partnership provides a momentum in achieving peace, prosperity and progress, and will be based on the following principles and ideals:

1. The Ten Principles of Bandung of the 1955 Asian – African Conference;
2. Recognition of diversity between and within the regions, including different social and economic systems and levels of development;
3. Commitment to open dialogue, based on mutual respect and benefit;
4. Promotion of non-exclusive cooperation by involving all stakeholders;
5. Attainment of practical and sustainable cooperation based on comparative advantage, equal partnership, common ownership and vision, as well as a firm and shared conviction to address common challenges;
6. Promotion of sustainable partnership by complementing and building upon existing regional/sub-regional initiatives in Asia and Africa;
7. Promotion of a just, democratic, transparent, accountable and harmonious society;
8. Promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development;
9. Promotion of collective and unified efforts in multilateral fora.

The NAASP shall emphasize the need to promote practical cooperation between the two continents in areas such as trade, industry, investment, finance, tourism, information and communication technology, energy, health, transportation, agriculture, water resources and fisheries.

The NAASP shall also address issues of common concern such as, armed conflict, weapons of mass destruction, transnational organized crimes and terrorism, which are fundamental to ensuring peace, stability, and security.

We are determined to prevent conflict and resolve disputes by peaceful means and endeavor to explore innovative mechanisms for confidence building and dispute resolution as well as for post- conflict peace building.

The NAASP shall promote human resource development, enhanced capacity building and technical cooperation in order to create an enabling environment for the betterment of the regions.

We resolve that the sustainability of the NAASP shall be conducted through three tiers of interaction: an intergovernmental forum; sub-regional organizations; and people-to-people interaction, particularly business, academia, and civil society.

We are determined to develop an institutionalized process of the NAASP through convening: a Summit of Heads of State/Government every four years; a Ministerial Meeting of Foreign Ministers every two years; and Sectoral Ministerial and other Technical Meetings when deemed necessary. A Business Summit in conjunction with the Summit of Heads of State/Government will be held every four years.

We pledge to our peoples our joint determination and commitment to bringing the NAASP into reality by implementing concrete actions for the benefit and prosperity of our peoples.

Done in Bandung, Indonesia, on the Twenty-fourth of April in the year Two Thousand and Five, in conjunction with the Commemoration of the Golden Jubilee of the Asian-African Conference of 1955.

For the Republic of Indonesia

H.E. Dr. H. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono
President

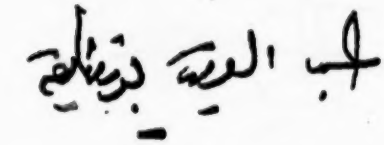
For the Republic of South Africa

H.E. Mr. Thabo Mvuyelwa Mbeki
President

For the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

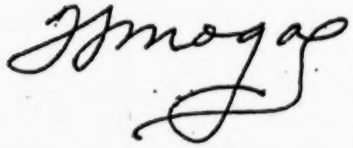
H.E. Mr. Hamid Karzai
President

For the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria



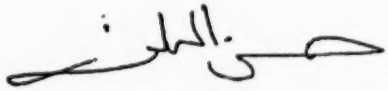
H. E. Mr. Abdelaziz Bouteflika
President

For the Republic of Botswana



H.E. Mr. Festus Gontebanye Mogae
President

For Brunei Darussalam

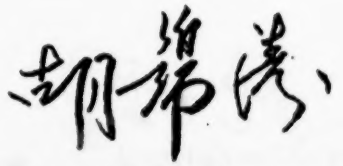


His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah
Sultan of Brunei Darussalam

For the Kingdom of Cambodia

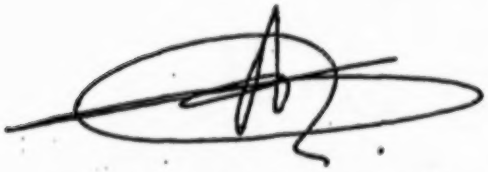
H. E. Samdech HUN SEN
Prime Minister

For the People's Republic of China



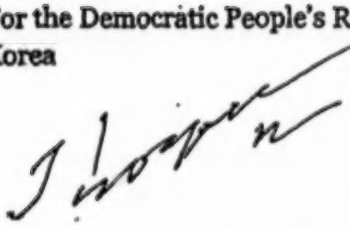
H. E. Mr. Hu Jintao
President

For the Union of the Comoros



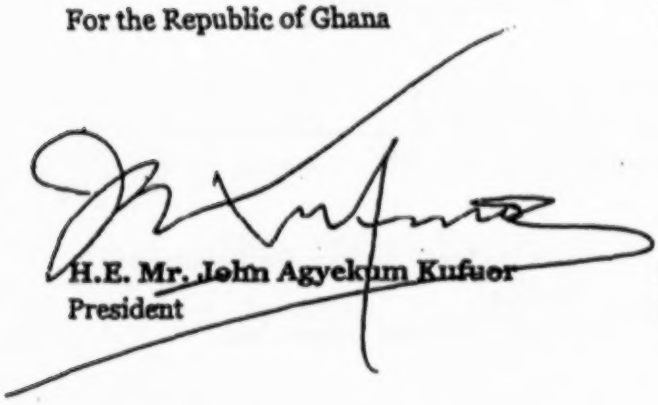
H. E. Mr. AZALI Assoumani
President

For the Democratic People's Republic of Korea



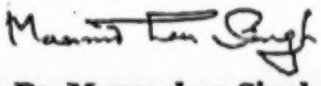
H. E. Mr. Kim Yong Nam
President of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly

For the Republic of Ghana



H.E. Mr. John Agyekum Kufuor
President

For the Republic of India



H.E. Dr. Manmohan Singh
Prime Minister

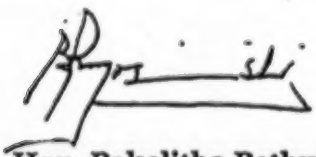
For Japan

H. E. Mr. Junichiro Koizumi
Prime Minister

For the Lao People's Democratic Republic

H. E. Mr. Bounnhang Vorachith
Prime Minister

For of the Kingdom of Lesotho

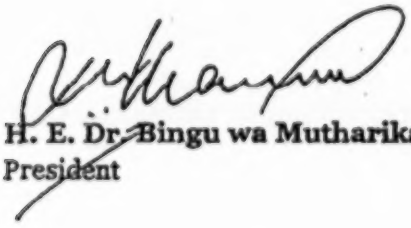


Rt. Hon. Pakalitha Bethuel Mosisili, M.P.
Prime Minister

For the Republic of Madagascar

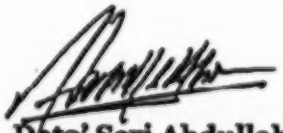
H.E. Mr. Marc Ravalomanana
President

For the Republic of Malawi



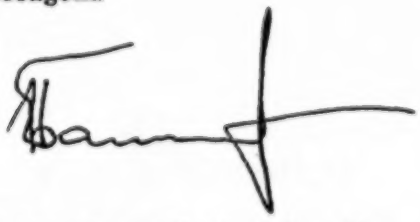
H. E. Dr. Bingu wa Mutharika
President

For Malaysia



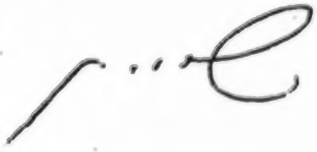
H. E. Dato' Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi
Prime Minister

For Mongolia



H. E. Mr. Natsagiin Bagabandi
President

For the Kingdom of Morocco



H.E. Mr. Driss Jettou
Prime Minister

For the Republic of Mozambique

H. E. Dra. Luisa Dias Diogo
Prime Minister

For the Union of Myanmar

H. E. Senior General Than Shwe
Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council

For the Kingdom of Nepal

His Majesty Gyanendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev
King of Nepal

For the Federal Republic of Nigeria

H. E. Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, GCFR
President

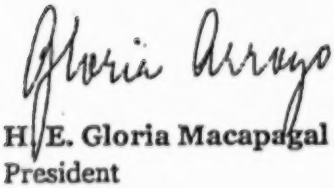
For the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

H. E. General Pervez Musharraf
President

For Independent State of Papua New Guinea

Rt. Hon. Sir Michael T. Somare GCMG, CH, KSt.J
Prime Minister

For the Republic of the Philippines

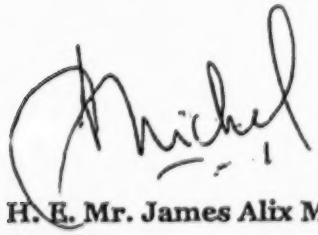


H. E. Gloria Macapagal Arroyo
President

For the Republic of Korea

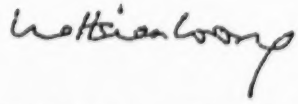
H. E. Mr. Lee Hae-chan
Prime Minister

For the Republic of Seychelles



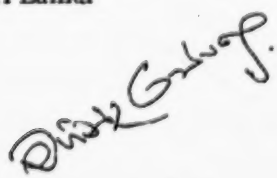
H. E. Mr. James Alix Michel
President

For the Republic of Singapore



H. E. Mr. Lee Hsien Loong
Prime Minister

For the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka



Hon. Mahinda Rajapaksa
Prime Minister

For the Republic of Sudan

H. E. Omer Hassan Ahmed El-Bashir
President

For the Kingdom of Swaziland

The Right Honorable Absalom Themba Dlamini
Prime Minister

For the Republic of Tajikistan

H. E. Mr. Emomali Sharipovich Rahmonov
President

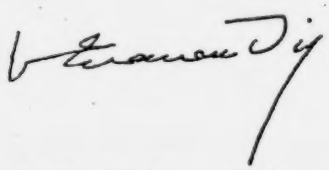
For the Kingdom of Thailand

H. E. Dr. Thaksin Shinawatra
Prime Minister

For the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste

H. E. Mr. Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão
President

For the Republic of Tunisia

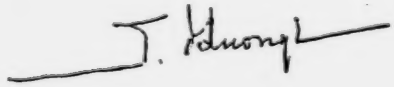


H. E. Mr. Mohamed Ghannouchi
Prime Minister

For the Republic of Vanuatu

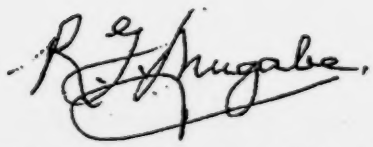
H. E. Mr. Kalkot Mataskelekele
President

For the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam



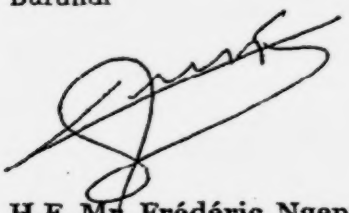
H. E. Mr. Tran Duc Luong
President

For the Republic of Zimbabwe



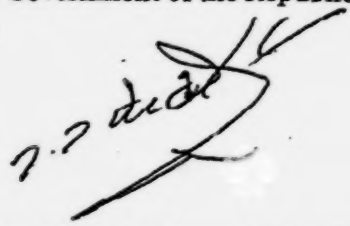
H. E. Mr. Robert Gabriel Mugabe
President

For the Government of the Republic of Burundi



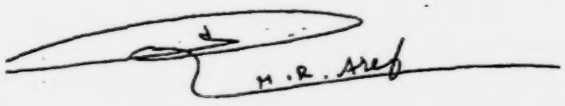
H.E. Mr. Frédéric Ngenzebuhoro
Vice President

For the Government of the Republic of Gabon



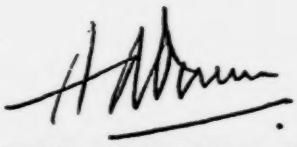
H.E. Mr. Didjob Divungi Di Ndinge
Vice President

For the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran



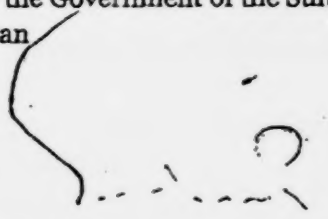
H.E. Mr. Mohammad Reza Aref
First Vice President

For the Government of the Republic of Mauritius



H. E. Mr. Abdool Raouf Bundhun
Vice President

For the Government of the Sultanate of Oman

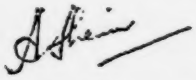


His Highness Sayyid As'ad bin Tarik Al-Said
Representative of His Majesty the Sultan of Oman

For the Government of the Arab Republic of Syria

H. E. Dr. Mohammad Zouheir Masharka
Vice President

For the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania

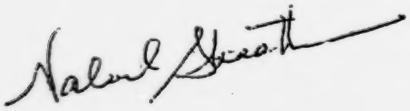


H.E. Dr. Ali Mohammed Shein
Vice President

For the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan

H. E. Mr. Yagub Eyyubov
First Deputy Prime Minister

For the Government of the State of Palestine

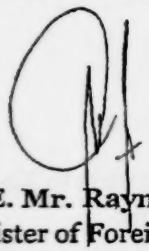


H.E. Dr. Nabeel Shaath
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Information

For the People's Republic of Bangladesh

H. E. Mr. M. Morshed Khan, M.P.
Minister of Foreign Affairs

For the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo



H. E. Mr. Raymond Ramazani Baya
Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic Republic of the Congo

For the Government of the Republic of the Congo

H. E. Mr. Rodolphe Adada
Minister of State, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Francophonie

For the Government of the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire

H.E. Bamba Mamadou
Minister of Foreign Affairs

For the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt

H.E. Mr. Ahmed Aboul Gheit
Minister of Foreign Affairs

For the Government of the State of Eritrea

H.E. Mr. Ali Said Abdella
Minister of Foreign Affairs

For the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

H.E. Mr. Seyoum Mesfin
Minister of Foreign Affairs

For the Government of the Republic of Gambia

H.E. Mr. Mousa Gibril Bala Gaye
Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs

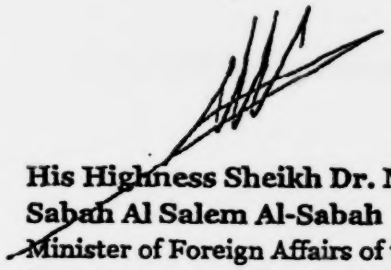
For the Government of the Republic of Guinea

H.E. Mrs. Sidibé Fatoumata Kaba
Minister of Foreign Affairs

For the Government of the Republic of Kenya

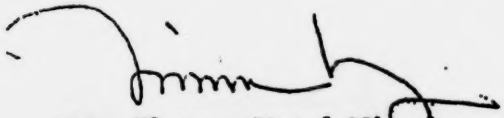
Hon. Amb. Chirau Ali Mwakwere, M.P.
Minister of Foreign Affairs

For the Government of the State of Kuwait



His Highness Sheikh Dr. Mohammad Sabah Al Salem Al-Sabah
Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Kuwait

For the Government of the Republic of Liberia

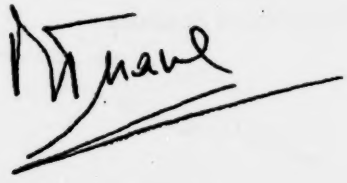


Hon. Thomas Yayah Nimely
Minister of Foreign Affairs

For the Government of the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

H. E. Abdulrahman Muhammad Shalgam
Secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation

For the Government of the Republic of Mali



H.E. Mr. Moctar Ouane
Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation

For the Government of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania

H.E. Mr. Mohamed Vall Ould Bellal
Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation

For the Government of the Republic of Namibia

H.E. Mr. Marco Hausiku, M.P.
Minister of Foreign Affairs

For the Government of the Republic of Rwanda

H.E. Hon. Dr. Charles Murigande
Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation

For the Government of the Republic of Senegal

H.E. Dr. Cheikh Tidiane Gadio
Senior Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Senegal

For the Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone

Hon. Alhajie Momodu Koroma
Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation

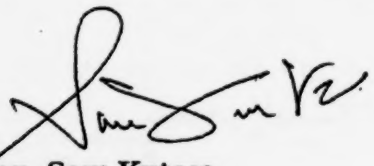
For the Government of the Solomon Islands

Hon. Laurie Chan
Minister for Foreign Affairs

For the Transitional Federal Government of the Republic of Somalia

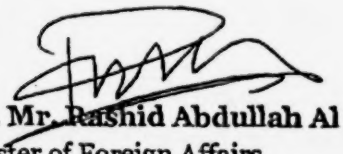
H.E. Mr. Abdullahi Sheikh Ismail
Minister for Foreign Affairs

For the Government of the Republic of Uganda



Hon. Sam Kutesa
Minister of Foreign Affairs

For the Government of the United Arab Emirates



H.E. Mr. Rashid Abdullah Al Noaimi
Minister of Foreign Affairs

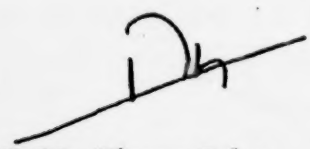
For the Government of the Republic of Yemen

H.E. Dr. Abu Bakar Al-Qirbi
Minister for Foreign Affairs

For the Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain

H.E. Sheikh Ali bin Khalifa Al-Khalifa
Minister of Transportation

For the Government of the Republic of Benin



H.E. Mr. Pierre Osho
State Minister in charge of National Defense

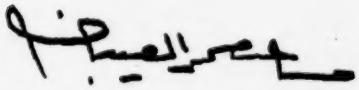
For the Government of the Republic of Maldives

Hon. Abdulla Hameed
Minister of Atolls Development

For the Government of the State of Qatar

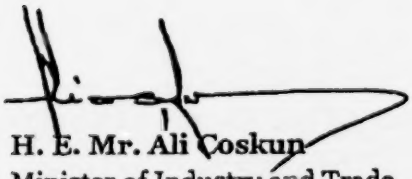
H.E. Hamad bin Naser Al-Thani
Minister of State

For the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia



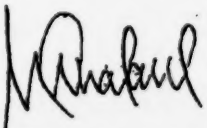
H.E. Dr. Musa'id bin Muhammad Al-Ieban
State Minister

For the Government of the Republic of Turkey



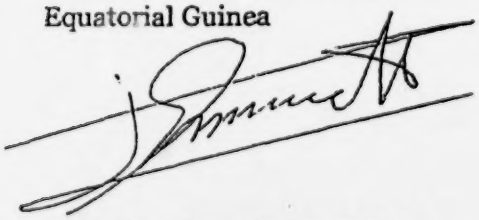
H. E. Mr. Ali Coskun
Minister of Industry and Trade

For the Government of the Republic of Zambia



Hon. Ng'andu P. Magande
Minister of Finance and National Planning

For the Government of Republic of Equatorial Guinea



H.E. Mr. Jose Esono Micha
Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs,
International Cooperation and Francophone

For the Government of the Republic of Iraq

H.E. Mr. T. Hamid Al Bayati
Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs

For the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan

H.E. Mr. Rapil Zhoshybayev
Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs

For the Government of the Republic of Angola

H.E. Dr. Ana Maria Teles Carreira
Ambassador of the Republic of Angola in New Delhi

For the Government of Burkina Faso

H.E. Dr. Michael Kafando
Permanent Representative to the United Nations

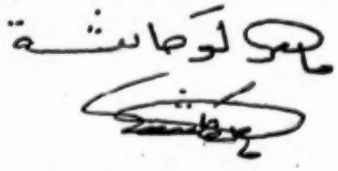
For the Government of the Republic of Lebanon

H.E. Mr. Hassan Muslimani
Ambassador of the Republic of Lebanon in Jakarta

For the Government of the Republic of Niger

H.E. Mr. Boubakar Adamou
Head Department of America, Asia and Oceania, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Cooperation and African Integration

For the Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan



H.E. Mr. Maher Lukasha
Charge d'Affaires of the Embassy of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan in Jakarta

JOINT MINISTERIAL STATEMENT ON THE NEW ASIAN-AFRICAN STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP PLAN OF ACTION

We, the Ministers of the Asian-African countries, assembled in Jakarta on 20 April 2005 for the Asian-African Ministerial Meeting:

Reaffirming our commitment to the Spirit and Principles of Bandung as enshrined in the Final Communique of the 1955 Asian-African Conference and the Charter of the United Nations;

Acknowledging the need to build a bridge between Asia and Africa based on shared vision and conviction, solidarity, equal partnership, common ownership, mutual respect, interest and strength;

Emphasizing the importance of complementing and building upon existing initiatives as well as internationally agreed development targets and goals emanating from various Conferences and Summits *inter alia* Millennium Development Goals, Monterrey Consensus, Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, and Doha Development Agenda;

Recognizing the need to enhance technical cooperation and capacity building as well as human resource development to address challenges of common concern;

Emphasizing the prominent and leading role of all Asian and African regional and sub-regional organizations in the NAASP, and the supportive role of regional development banks and United Nations regional economic commissions in promoting Asian-African partnership;

Desiring to realize mutually beneficial areas of cooperation that are pragmatic, structured, and sustainable;

To these ends, we shall strive to implement the following concrete measures in three broad areas of partnership, to which we assign special significance:

A. POLITICAL SOLIDARITY

1. **Promoting** conditions essential for greater political cooperation and confidence building, conducive to the attainment of peace and stability in both regions;

2. **Striving** to prevent conflict and resolve disputes by peaceful means including through enhanced dialogue, preventive diplomacy, conflict resolution and post-conflict reconstruction;

3. **Encouraging** regional, sub-regional and national mechanisms for preventing conflict and promoting political stability and supporting efforts in peace keeping and post-conflict peace-building;

4. **Supporting** the peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine and a lasting peace in the Middle East and calling upon the Quartet and the international community to ensure the implementation of the Roadmap;

5. **Strengthening** democratic institutions and popular participation by, among others, sharing of best practices and experiences;

6. **Promoting and protecting** human rights and fundamental freedoms through dialogue and capacity building;

7. **Strengthening** international and inter-regional cooperation to fight terrorism in all its forms and manifestations in full conformity with international law as well as to address its underlying causes;

8. **Combating** transnational crimes in all its dimensions *inter-alia* money laundering, illicit trafficking of drugs, small arms and light weapons as well as trafficking in persons particularly women and children, through capacity building among law enforcement agencies in the two regions;

9. **Preventing** and **combating** corruption through promoting good governance and a culture of integrity based on the rule of law;

10. **Promoting** the reform of the United Nations with the aims of strengthening multilateralism, reinforcing the role of the United Nations in maintaining and promoting international peace, security and sustainable development, as well as ensuring greater participation for and share among Asian and African countries in its decision-making processes.

B. ECONOMIC COOPERATION

1. **Supporting** efforts to create an enabling international economic environment, which is critical for Asian and African countries to acquire the requisite capacities to successfully compete and fully benefit from globalization;

2. **Resolving** the issue of poverty in a collective and comprehensive fashion through mobilizing resources for sustained economic growth, resolving debt issues, developing internationally agreed innovative financial mechanisms, capital market cooperation, ensuring flows of international development assistance, improving market access and addressing unfair and trade-distorting subsidies, addressing weak and unstable commodity prices, and enhancing flows of investment;

3. **Promoting** and **facilitating** direct trade and investment between Asia and Africa;

4. **Maximizing** the benefits of trade liberalization through improved market access for products of export interest to Asian and African countries, including by striving to provide voluntary non-reciprocal market access for Asian-African Least Developed Countries (LDCs);

5. **Building** effective and targeted technical assistance and capacity building programs to allow Asian and African countries to integrate into the world economy and enhance competitiveness;

6. **Striving** for sustainable development, food security, and rural development through enhanced cooperation in the areas of agriculture, water resources, fishery, and forestry;

7. **Maximizing** the benefits arising from the protection of intellectual property rights by *inter alia* advancing the protection of genetic resources, traditional knowledge and folklore, as well as from flexibilities provided by trade related intellectual property rights agreements;

8. **Strengthening** cooperation among Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in Asian and African Countries by means of education and skill enhancement as well as sharing best practices and experiences;

9. **Strengthening** cooperation in narrowing the digital divide, creating digital opportunities, and supporting initiatives such as the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) aimed at harnessing the potential of information and communication technologies for development;

10. **Fostering** research and development and the sharing of relevant technologies, including nanotechnology, biotechnology, and vaccine research;

11. **Promoting** the development of sustainable energy resources and technologies including geothermal, biogas, solar, hydro-power, and nuclear energy for peaceful purposes;

12. **Undertaking** joint exploration of the Indian Ocean, including marine resources, marine scientific research, safety of navigation and communication at sea, and search and rescue operations, to further bridge the divide between the two regions;

13. **Encouraging** the establishment of an Asia–Africa Business Forum to enable greater contact among private sectors

in contributing to increased flows of trade and investment among Asian and African countries.

C. SOCIO-CULTURAL RELATIONS

1. **Fostering** greater people-to-people contacts so as to enrich civil society and good governance as well as ensure that cooperation development reaches the different levels of society in countries in Asia and Africa;

2. **Enhancing** dialogue among civilizations, including interfaith dialogues, with a view to promoting peace and development through mutual understanding and tolerance among societies;

3. **Promoting** mutual understanding of diverse cultures and societies through *inter alia* cultural exchanges, preserving and restoring the cultural heritage of our peoples and the establishment of a Cultural Dialogue Forum;

4. **Advancing** youth, gender equality, education, science and technology, with a view to enhancing the capacity of human resources, overcoming illiteracy and improving the quality of life;

5. **Fighting** against HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and various other epidemics and communicable diseases through prevention, treatment and care which are based on the advancement of public community health, a coordinated and sustained global response, as well as greater availability of medicines at an affordable price;

6. **Enhancing** the role of the media in promoting the sharing of information and greater knowledge of the ways of life in Asian and African countries;

7. **Developing** a network among universities, libraries, research institutions and centers of excellence in Asia and Africa, including linkages with existing regional, inter-regional and international agencies, with a view to sharing and expanding the pool

of resources, skills and knowledge as well as developing mechanisms for scholarships and exchanges;

8. **Building** cooperation to improve environment protection, through *inter-alia*, responsible use of non-renewable natural resources, transfer of environmentally sound technology;

9. **Striving** for improved management and conservation of biodiversity while respecting and protecting the rights and socio-cultural practices of local communities;

10. **Advancing** efforts to create an emergency preparedness mechanism and early warning system concomitant with on-going efforts to better deal with and mitigate natural disasters.

We appreciate the efforts of several countries and organizations that conducted studies, as mandated by the Asian-African Sub-Regional Organizations (AASROC) Ministerial Working Group Meeting and AASROC II. We express our satisfaction with the deliberations of the Sub-Regional Organizations in also providing concrete recommendations to further our cooperation.

We welcome the efforts of the business community to promote closer economic and trade cooperation through the convening of the First Asian-African Business Summit. We look forward to continued progress and interaction between our business communities.

We acknowledge with appreciation the outcomes emanating from the Workshop on the Role of Women and Youth in Furthering Asia-Africa Cooperation as well as the Asian-African Symposium on Renewable Energy.

We welcome the generosity of the Provincial Government of West Java in providing a venue in Bandung, Indonesia, for the establishment of an Asian African Village in celebration of the mutual bond of friendship between Africa and Asia.

We note with appreciation the Co-chairmanship of Indonesia and South Africa, and the warm hospitality and excellent arrangements made for the Meeting by the Government and people of the Republic of Indonesia.

JOINT ASIAN-AFRICAN LEADERS' STATEMENT ON TSUNAMI, EARTHQUAKE AND OTHER NATURAL DISASTERS

We, the Heads of State/Government of Asian and African countries, gathered in Jakarta, Indonesia on 22-23 April 2005, expressed our profound grief at the losses of lives and livelihood caused by the earthquake and tsunami disaster in the Indian Ocean on 26 December 2004.

We are cognizant that the earthquake and tsunami disaster is a strong reminder that our two continents are bound together, in that the impact of the devastation was jointly felt by the peoples in both continents.

We noted that this natural catastrophe had generated an unprecedented scale of international response, assistance and empathy. In this regard, we commended the leading role of affected countries and the valuable contributions of the international community, including the Asian-African countries, in addressing the recent earthquake and tsunami disaster by collectively assisting in emergency relief efforts as well as in reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts.

We pledge to encourage the continued development of appropriate measures pertinent to disaster reduction, mitigation and management, which will be supportive of the outcome of the Special ASEAN Leaders Meeting on Aftermath of Earthquake and Tsunami held in Jakarta on 6 January 2005.

We also took note of the outcomes of various initiatives to address tsunami and other natural disasters, *inter alia* the World Conference on Disaster Reduction held in Kobe; the Ministerial Meeting on Regional Cooperation on Tsunami Early Warning Arrangements held in Phuket; the Africa Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction of the Third AU Summit held in Addis Ababa; and other international conferences under the auspices of the United Nations, including the World Summit on Sustainable Development held in Johannesburg.

We realized that natural disasters such as earthquakes and tsunami tidal waves respect no political borders and pose a major threat to all people as well as their livelihood and environment, as their unmitigated impact and aftermath undermines the progress of social and economic development.

We recognized the expertise and experience of countries in the Indian Ocean Rim and the Pacific Rim in addressing the problem of tsunami and earthquake disasters and therefore emphasized the urgent need to invest in the development of proactive, integrated, multi-hazard and multi-sectoral standby arrangements and early warning system to mitigate natural disasters in the Indian Ocean Rim.

To these ends, we are determined to:

1. Establish an integrated strategy for the development of a multi-nodal early warning system with mechanisms for preparedness, prevention, mitigation and response, with a view to minimizing casualties;

2. Establish and upgrade national early warning systems, including those that are based on community participation, while moving towards enhancing cooperation in the development of a coordinated regional system;

3. Explore ways and means to enhance the effectiveness of collective actions through consideration of possible rapid response capacities at the regional and international levels by *inter alia* establishing a standby arrangement for disaster relief and emergency response, creating networks for information exchange, establishing research and database centers, maximizing the use of the latest advances in science and technology, and developing strategies to reduce the risk and impact of natural disasters;

4. Reinforce efforts to create among all levels of Asian and African societies a culture of disaster risk reduction and empower those at risk to achieve protection against disaster impacts by way of enhancing capacity building, promoting public education and awareness as well as community participation in disaster prevention and mitigation;

5. Encourage greater interaction among experts from Asia and Africa in finding practical ways and means, as well as sharing best practices and experiences, on preparing Asian-African countries for the direct impact of disasters and possible secondary effects such as on public health and environmental crises;

6. Encourage the international community to continue efforts to provide disaster affected countries with technical and financial assistance, including in rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts.

We are determined that, harnessed within a spirit of compassion, sacrifice and endurance, our preparedness and capacity to proactively address the affects of tsunami, earthquake and other natural disasters will prevail to the future betterment of our peoples.

Jakarta, 23 April 2005